

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 EPA-01 OES-03 EB-07 AGR-05 STR-04

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FAS HUME AND FITZSIMMONDS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EAGR JA

SUBJECT: CITRUS/FUNGICIDES

REF: (A) TOKYO 1707 (B) FASTO 83 (C) TOKYO 1445

1. SUMMARY. JUNG OF MSD AND AGATT REPS CALLED ON DR SHIRASU AT HIS LAB FEB 18. BOB IKI, INDIAN RIVER CITRUS REP, ACCOMPANIED NIMURA AND AOYAGI OF IMPORTERS MANAGERIAL ASSN TO AGATT OFF FOR DISCUSSION FEB 17. JUNG CONTACTING MSD HOME OFF VIA TELEPHONE IN EFFORT TO GET CONCURRENCE ON APPROACH TO TAKE. SINCE TIME IS OF ESSENCE, APPEARS MSD MUST EITHER PROCEED ASAP TO DO CYTO-GENETIC STUDIES AND DOMINANT LETHAL TEST OR SEND SAMPLE OF TBZ VIA AGATT TO SHIRASU IMMEDIATELY SO RESEARCH CAN BE STARTED HERE. UKI USING VARIOUS APPROACHES TO GET MHW TO GIVE PROVISIONAL APPROVAL OF OPP/TBZ PENDING OUTCOME OF RESEARCH. HE SAYS SEVERAL EXPORTERS WILL STOP EXPORTING IN ABOUT APRIL IF PROVISIONAL APPROVAL NOT GRANTED. SAMPLE OF OPP NOT YET RECEIVED. PLEASE CABLE DATE AND METHOD SENT, I.E. APO, INTL AIRMAIL, ETC. SHIRASU WILL ALSO DO TERATOGENICITY STUDY ON OPP. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MTG FEB 17 IKI STATED FLATLY THAT SUNKIST, INDIAN RIVER CITRUS AND OTHERS WOULD SUSPEND SHIPMENTS ENTIRELY WHEN WARMER

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WEATHER COMES UNLESS MHW GRANTS PROV APPROVAL FOR

USE OF OPP/TBZ PENDING RESEARCH RESULTS. HE SUGGESTED THAT US SIDE MUST NOW MAKE BIG PUSH FOR PROV APPROVAL IN ORDER TO ASSURE SMOOTH TRADING DURING SPRING AND SUMMER MONTHS. NIMURA OF IMPORTERS ASSN SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO PETITION GOJ TO GRANT PROV APPROVAL AND IS ALSO PREPARED TO INSTRUCT ALL IMPORTERS TO STOP IMPORTING IF SUCH APPROVAL NOT GRANTED BEFORE WARMER WEATHER ARRIVES. NIMURA ASKED AGATT OFF TO ALSO PETITION GOJ FOR PROV APPROVAL.

3. AGATT REPS EXPLAINED THAT BOTH MAF AND MHW FULLY AWARE OF COMPLICATIONS THAT CAN DEVELOP DURING WARMER MONTHS, AND BOTH APPEAR ANXIOUS TO AVOID SUCH COMPLICATIONS TO EXTENT POSSIBLE. NEVERTHELESS, LEGALITY OF GRANTING SO-CALLED PROV APPROVAL APPEARS TO BE MAJOR QUESTION AT MOMENT. UNDER CURR POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE, AGATT REPS SUGGESTED, IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY ANYONE IN GOJ WOULD BE WILLING TO SUPPORT GRANTING OF SUCH APPROVAL UNLESS MOVE IS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS LEGAL.

4. AGATT REPS TOLD NIMURA THAT HIS PETITIONING GOJ FOR PROV APPROVAL APPEARED APPROPRIATE BUT WITHOUT FURTHER INTERNAL DISCUSSION AGATT REPS COULD NOT AT MOMENT COMMIT AGATT OFF TO MAKE SIMILAR PETITION. AGATT OFF, HOWEVER, HAS DISCUSSED MATTER INFORMALLY WITH CERTAIN GOJ OFFICIALS AND, ALTHOUGH LEGALITY STILL IN QUESTION, SAID OFFICIALS CAN SEE SOME MERIT IN CONSIDERING PROV APPROVAL ONCE RESEARCH IS BEGUN AND GOING SMOOTHLY.

5. RE FINANCING OF RESEARCH, IKI ASKED AGATT REPS IF USDA COULD CONTRIBUTE SOME FUNDS TO THIS END. AGATT REPS REPLIED THAT AGATT OFF NOT IN POSITION TO MAKE ANY COMMENT ON QUESTION AS SUCH MATTERS FALL UNDER PURVIEW OF USDA/W NOT THE AGATT OFF.

6. ON FEB 18 MTG WITH SHIRASU AND JUNG, DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON RESEARCH PROCEDURE AND COSTS. MSD/US NOW HAS MICRO-BIOLOGICAL MUTAGENICITY STUDIES UNDERWAY WITH PLANS TO DO DOMINANT LETHAL TESTS BUT GREAT RELUCTANCE TO DO CYTOGENETIC TESTS DUE TO COMPANY BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS. SHIRASU POINTED OUT THAT STANFORD RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SRI) CAN DO IN VIVO AND IN VITRO CYTOGENETIC TESTS FOR TOTAL OF ABOUT \$5000. RATHER THAN INVOLVING THOUSANDS OF RATS, AS JUNG HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHIRASU SAID ONLY 20 TO 30 RATS WOULD BE RQRD.

7. SHIRASU EXPLAINED THAT IF MSD CAN DO MUTAGENICITY RESEARCH ON TBZ IT WOULD BE GREAT HELP TO HIM AS HIS LAB ALREADY HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH TO DO BEFORE PRIORITY REQUEST ON OPP/TBZ STUDIES CAME. HIS LAB NOW COMMITTED TO DO MUTAGENICITY STUDIES ON BOTH OPP AND TBZ AND TEROGENICITY STUDIES ON OPP, ON TOP PRIORITY BASIS. THIS IS HEAVY BURDEN SO WOULD GREATLY HELP IF

MSD WOULD CONTINUE ON PRIORITY BASIS WITH MUTAGENICITY ON TBZ,
LEAVING ONLY OPP RESEARCH TO SHIRASU.

8. RE QUESTION OF SANITATION COUNCIL (FSIC) ACCEPTANCE OF MSD
RESEARCH DATA, SHIRASU PROMISED TO DISCUSS FULLY WITH MHW.
SHIRASU FELT CONFIDENT THAT IF RESEARCH DONE BY REPUTABLE ORG
LIKE SRI IT WOULD BE QUITE ACCEPTABLE, BUT HE WILL CONFIRM.

9. IN CASE MSD DECIDES NOT TO COMPLETE RESEARCH, SHIRASU
SUGGESTED SAMPLE OF TBZ BE FWD THRU AGATT OFF ASAP AS TIME IS
OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE. JUNG NOW CHECKING WITH MSD/US.

10. ACTION REQUESTED. OPP SAMPLE NOT RECD BY AGATT AS OF
FEB 19. PLEASE TOFAS DATE AND METHOD SENT.

11. COMMENT. ALL CONCERNED AGENCIES IN GOJ APPEAR TO BE
ANXIOUS TO GET RESEARCH COMPLETED AND PROBLEM RESOLVED ASAP.
CURRENTLY LACK OF SAMPLES IS MAJOR OBSTACLE. AGATT FEELS
UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT INAPPROPRIATE TO PRESSURE GOJ THRU
STR AS SUGGESTED BY IKI TO GIVE PROV APPROVAL. AGATT SUGGESTS
THAT FOR TIME BEING WE CONTINUE TO PURSUE PROV APPROVAL ISSUE
WITH GOJ AT INFORMAL/LOW KEY LEVEL.
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